12129-00013 PATENT

Claims 1-43 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-30 are subject to an election requirement. Claims 31-43 are newly added.

A fee calculation sheet for the newly added claims along with authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of the calculated fee are submitted herewith. Applicants further submit that at least newly added Claims 31 and 39 are considered to be generic.

The requirement for election is traversed because species 1-5 clearly are related. Applicants also submit that a thorough search and examination of species 4 would be relevant to the examination of species 1-3 and 5, and would not be a serious burden on the examiner. Additionally, requirements for election are not mandatory under 35 U.S.C. 121. Accordingly, reconsideration of the election requirement is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert E. Slenker

Reg. No. 45,112

ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600

St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740

(314) 621-5070